

**SECRET**

12 DEC 1975

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DEC 12 1975	
FBI - [redacted]	

*SE/CE/I*

MEMORANDUM FOR: Director  
National Security Agency

ATTENTION : [redacted]

SUBJECT : William Hamilton Martin and Lornon Ferguson  
Mitchell *201-282338*  
*201-282337*

1. Attached is a copy of a report recently received [redacted] concerning a conversation between Canadian professor Dr. Hans Kunov and Martin in Moscow. The attachment outlines the conversation Kunov had with Martin and indicates that both Martin and Mitchell are attempting to leave the USSR.

2. Also attached is a report on [redacted] *201-086209* host at the USSR Academy of Sciences Computer Center.

3. [redacted] the FBI has received the information contained in the attachments.

FOR THE DEPUTY DIRECTOR FOR OPERATIONS:

[redacted signature box]

Attachments:  
As stated

CIOL-00164-75  
DDO/CI/RQA/E: [redacted] (12/12/75)

COORDINATION:

Distribution:  
Orig & 1 - Addes w/att  
1 - C/CI w/att  
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1 - C/DIVD w/att

[redacted] C/DIVD/TCB in draft  
12 Dec 1975  
201-282338

B-201-0862574  
B-201-0282337

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[redacted stamp]

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Dr. H. KUNOV professor, University of Toronto, visited Moscow from [redacted] to undertake research at the USSR Academy of Sciences, under the USSR/Canada General Exchange Agreement. The research was carried out at the Academy of Sciences Computer Centre, 40 Vavcoba Street. [redacted]

[redacted] while having a coffee break in the Computer Centre KUNOV was approached by a man who identified himself as William MARTIN, an American who defected to the USSR in 1960. MARTIN openly spoke about his past and stated that he now lives in Moscow and that he is a consultant to [redacted] the Computer Centre. He said much of his work is done at home but he does drop into the Centre weekly.

It was at this time that MARTIN told KUNOV that he would like to get out of the USSR even if he has to run certain risks. He also said that (Bernon) MITCHELL feels the same and has voiced his desire to the Soviet authorities.

MARTIN asked KUNOV if he might enquire with the Canadian authorities on his behalf to see what his status would be in this country or if there was any chance of his being allowed in here as a political refugee. KUNOV agreed to contact the Canadian Embassy in Moscow to see what the official view would be and notify MARTIN at a later date. MARTIN seemed most pleased at this and left KUNOV his home telephone number, cautioning him not to say anything over phone that would tip off the Soviet authorities as to his intentions. This first meeting lasted a little over one half hour and took place in the coffee lounge area of the Centre. There were other Soviets present in the lounge [redacted] KUNOV does not believe the others were aware of their conversation.

[redacted] KUNOV called at the Canadian Embassy, Moscow and spoke to a doorman asking him who he might speak to regarding some Americans living in the USSR who would like to immigrate to Canada. The doorman referred KUNOV to the office of a [redacted] KUNOV then spoke to a U/N who stated that he was the under secretary to [redacted] KUNOV enquired about the Americans living in the USSR and asked could they be allowed to immigrate to Canada. The Embassy official would not commit himself and stated that KUNOV should enquire officially with the nearest office of Manpower and Immigration when he returned to Canada. KUNOV did not give this official MARTIN or MITCHELL's names. KUNOV telephoned MARTIN after the Embassy visit and stated that the reply from the Embassy was negative. MARTIN seemed upset that KUNOV should phone him, then he later stated that it would probably be all right.

MARTIN met KUNOV on at least two occasions [redacted] all at the Centre, usually in the coffee lounge and in the general presence of others. They spoke English at all times. MARTIN thanked KUNOV for his trouble in enquiring at the Embassy and cautioned KUNOV not to get personally involved with him in this venture as it would be bad news. KUNOV promised MARTIN that he would check with Canadian Manpower and Immigration authorities on the matter when he returned to Canada.

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The following observations were made by KUNOV regarding MARTIN:

(a) Physical Description

- 5'7" or 3" tall, fair hair, crewcut, balding at the temples, not belied.
- may suffer from a nervous condition, and bears the mark of a man who has experienced rough times.
- always dressed with a shirt, tie and jacket.
- spoke perfect English with a slight Russian accent on certain words.

(b) MARTIN provided KUNOV with the following home address and telephone number, cautioning him that his telephone was bugged.

- telephone number - 433-03-81
- 117421 Obrucheva Street
- Building 4-1
- Apt. 126
- Moscow, USSR

(c) MARTIN stated that his friend MITCHELL lives in Leningrad and is married to the Dean of the Music Conservatory in Leningrad. MITCHELL is very unhappy and he has openly asked Soviet authorities for permission to leave Russia and return to the USA. Apparently he has never been able to adjust to the Soviet way of life and is now very desperate. MITCHELL is willing to divorce his wife and take any risk to get out of the USSR. To date however he has been met with a wall of silence by the Soviets.

(d) MARTIN is unmarried. He claims to have a comfortable apartment and feels that he has adjusted to the Soviet life and is accepted in the USSR. He does not want to return to the USA but would like to get out of the USSR. He said he would have quite a story to tell about his life in Russia as well as his past and that he would have no compunctions about telling all about the Russians. MARTIN at one point stated that he would not consider attempting to escape from the USSR.

(e) MARTIN claims that he is constantly harrassed by Soviet officials. His apartment has been broken into on several occasions and he refused to use the Soviet mail system. He has also refused to show up for work in the past as a form of protest. MARTIN also indicated that he has had several contacts with Americans in Moscow and that they have not shown any animosity towards him. He actually dated an American woman for some time but did not mention her name.

(f) MARTIN stated that in the past American journalists have tried to contact him many times, asking for interviews but their requests have been refused by Russian authorities. He said he hoped some day that one of these journalists would be able to just knock on his door and talk to him.

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[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
MARTIN has been at the centre for approximately 6 to 8 months [REDACTED] Prior to that he worked as a consultant in another area of the Academy of Sciences. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] MARTIN does much of his work at home. [REDACTED] he was not accepted by the Russians in the Academy. [REDACTED] MARTIN was a basically honest man.

KUIKOV said his motives for trying to assist MARTIN and MITCHELL are based on humanitarian grounds, only, as he feels they are suffering under the Soviet system. He does not intend to take any further action to assist them in leaving the Soviet Union. [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

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201-282 338

The RCMP Liaison Office  
2450 Massachusetts Ave. N.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20008

US/75/539

75WLO-118-38

2 December 1975

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[REDACTED]  
C.I.A.

Dear

Re: William Hamilton MARTIN, and  
Bernon Ferguson MITCHELL

Further to your letter of 6 October 1975, we have identified and spoken to the Canadian professor, Dr. Hans KUNOV, referred to in your letter [REDACTED]. The attachment outlines the contact between KUNOV and MARTIN and MITCHELL. [REDACTED]

Also attached is a report on [REDACTED] host at the USSR Academy of Sciences Computer Center. In addition to any comments you may wish to make concerning MARTIN's approaches to KUNOV [REDACTED]

The F.B.I. has received the information contained in the attachments.

Yours truly,

[REDACTED]  
Assistant Liaison Officer.

att. (2)

This document is the property of the Government of Canada. It is to be kept confidential and its use is limited to the intelligence community of the receiving Government and its officials. It is to be destroyed without the express permission of the Government of Canada.

**SECRET**

Re: W.H. MARTIN and B.F. MITCHELL

Dr. Hans KUNOV professor, University of Toronto, visited Moscow [redacted] to undertake research at the USSR Academy of Sciences, under the USSR/Canada General Exchange Agreement. The research was carried out at the Academy of Sciences Computer Centre, 40 Vavcoba Street. [redacted]

[redacted] while having a coffee break in the Computer Centre KUNOV was approached by a man who identified himself as William MARTIN, an American who defected to the USSR in 1950. MARTIN openly spoke about his past and stated that he now lives in Moscow and that he is a consultant to [redacted] group at the Computer Centre. He said much of his work is done at home but he does drop into the Centre weekly.

It was at this time that MARTIN told KUNOV that he would like to get out of the USSR even if he has to run certain risks. He also said that (Bernon) MITCHELL feels the same and has voiced his desire to the Soviet authorities.

MARTIN asked KUNOV if he might enquire with the Canadian authorities on his behalf to see what his status would be in this country or if there was any chance of his being allowed in here as a political refugee. KUNOV agreed to contact the Canadian Embassy in Moscow to see what the official view would be and notify MARTIN at a later date. MARTIN seemed most pleased at this and left KUNOV his home telephone number, cautioning him not to say anything over phone that would tip off the Soviet authorities as to his intentions. This first meeting lasted a little over one half hour and took place in the coffee lounge area of the Centre. There were other Soviets present in the lounge [redacted] KUNOV does not believe the others were aware of their conversation.

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(c)

(e)

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**SECRET**

6 OCT  
1975

US/75/539

Dear Harry,

We have learned that [redacted] September 1975,  
[redacted] of the U.S. Embassy in Moscow had a conversation  
of interest with a Canadian Embassy Officer. [redacted]

[redacted]

Dr. Harry KERNOV, an Associate Professor of English at the  
University of Toronto in Canada, regarding American defectors  
Bernon F. MITCHELL and William H. MARTIN. Kernov implied that  
he had had recent personal contact with one or both of the  
defectors and recommended that the Canadian government give  
Martin and Mitchell permission to emigrate to Canada. [redacted]

[redacted]

We would, of course, be interested in any indications that  
Martin and Mitchell are attempting to leave the USSR and would  
be grateful for any information you may be able to provide us  
in regard to the above.

[redacted]

Yours,

[redacted]

DDO/CI/R&A/T [redacted] (20 Oct 75)

Distribution:

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1 - 165-2720 ✓  
1 - Reading File

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